



Sketch

Nicely nasty in the British way



Simon Hoggart

THE Civil Service faces a few unpleasant surprises with the publication of the Scott Report next week, so it seemed a good idea to listen to the country's most senior civil servant, Sir Robin Butler. He was giving evidence to the Select Committee on Public Service.

ally flawed". Did he agree? Sir Robin: "I have made no public criticism of the procedures of the inquiry, throughout. This is British for 'Yes - of course I agree. In spades."

Labour leader pledges elected mayors and devolution for Scotland and Wales in constitutional shake-up

Hereditary peers 'face axe'



Kings and their bastard kin... Clockwise from top, Charles II and William IV, and Charles II's illegitimate descendants, the Duke of Grafton (by Barbara Villiers), and the Duke of Richmond (by Louise de Keroualle)

Blair refuses to back PR reform

Patrick Wintour Chief Political Correspondent

TONY BLAIR yesterday issued a stinging attack on the hereditary peerage system, saying British democracy could not tolerate an upper chamber of Parliament in which Tory voting fodder held seats not by merit, but because a 300-year-old ancestor might have been "the mistress of a monarch".

ent histories". The Welsh Office was a recent creation and there was very little separate Welsh legislation. Scotland on the other hand had had its own parliament for hundreds of years.

Reconstitution

- LABOUR'S constitutional reform plans:
- Introduce tax raising parliament for Scotland and assembly for Wales with no tax raising powers. Legislation to be passed in first year, with parliament in place in 18 months
- Incorporate European Convention of Human Rights into UK law, allowing citizens to enforce it in British courts
- End right of hereditary peers to speak and vote in Lords. Some hereditary peers to be appointed life peers. An elected second chamber - with no extra powers - at unspecified date
- All party group to draft full bill of rights
- Reform of official secrets legislation
- English assemblies to be set up only where supported in local referendums
- Referendum on proportional representation for elections to Commons
- Lift rate capping, introduce annual elections and examine case for elected mayors

First night

Gawky guy who found his balls

Robert Yates

PEOPLE over-analyse me, according to Lee Evans in his case, the reason for performing was straight forward. He wasn't much liked, people were after him, and making their laugh was a way to get by. In short: "I had curly hair and was a twat."

merely the channel for a gang of people having an argument. "I'm all over the shop," he says at one stage, deciding he needs to add to the voices by becoming his own critic too.

From the wrong side of the blanket

Owen Bowcott on chequered routes to a place on the red leather benches

Absentee legislators

EVEN among the Lords' hereditary privilege, one clutch of peers is conspicuous in owing its good fortune to anything but public service.

In the last parliamentary session, between November 1994 and November 1995, 357 hereditary peers attended on fewer than half of the 142 parliamentary days.

title lives near Chichester and has been a chancellor of Sussex University. The Earl of Munster owes his coronet to the good looks and charm of the 18th century comic actress, Mrs Jordan, who had a son by William IV in 1794.

known to history as Nell. His descendant, the Duke of Devonshire, was the first Duke of Devonshire. He has held positions on architectural and church bodies.

Let pupils study pop culture, but don't Blur the distinctions, says curriculum adviser

Barbie Dutter

SCHOOLCHILDREN should be taught the superiority of Schubert over their more likely choice of Britpop idols like Blur, the Government's chief curriculum adviser said last night.

example of a prevailing "cultural relativism" which failed to recognise enduring artistic values, Nick Tate, chief executive of the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority, said.

latest Blur release, between Milton and Mills and Boon, or between Vermeer's View of Delft and a brick wall or dead sheep at the Tate.

from his boss, Sir Ron Dearing, chairman of the School Curriculum and Advisory Authority.

gauge and Communication at Oxford University, who this week outlined her permissive views on spoken English in the BBC Health Lectures, last night expressed concern at any move by the education system to impose value judgements about cultural issues.

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DRESSING UP: Ultra-formal style long out of favour



DRESSING DOWN: Ultra-casual fashion statement



DRESSING RIGHT: Return to office-orthodox

# Suits oust scruffs in office fashion stakes

'Blazers, sports jackets, leather jackets and flannels are not acceptable...'  
**Sally Weale on the new conservatism**

**A**FTER years of dressing down for work, the traditional shirt and sober tie are making a comeback in Britain's offices. Having experimented unsuccessfully with the American-pioneered casual business look, companies are increasingly introducing more conventional dress codes for staff. Among those affected are 53 workers at the North-East traffic area office in Leeds, it emerged yesterday, who have been told that trackuits, shorts and T-shirts are out. Shirts, ties and smart trousers are now the order of the day; women have been told to wear "the female equivalent". A circular to workers has advised that earrings are out for men, nose-rings are forbidden whatever your sex, and shirts should be neatly tucked into trousers. "There has been a growing tendency recently for some staff to adopt an overall standard of dress which, while tidy, is more casual than the general public have come to expect from office workers," the circular read. Clerical and secretarial staff at the office, which is responsible for the road safety of lorries and coaches in the North-east, are not happy and have taken the matter up with their trade union. Labour MP Gwyneth Dunwoody is to present in Parliament about what she has called a "barney" idea. The trend towards more casual clothing in the workplace began in American com-



DRESSING SHARPLY: Body piercing is unacceptable

UK employees wore. "It has not swept the company by storm," said one Ford man. Likewise at Mercury Communications, the notion of dress-down Fridays quickly disappeared. "We don't have a dress code," said company spokesman Stephen Powers (pin-stripe suit). "We'd probably raise an eyebrow if someone came in wearing bondage trousers or a Destroy T-shirt or a black bin liner. We just like our employees to look smart and respectable, but feel comfortable." In City law firms, however, the tide has turned decisively. Solicitors DJ Freeman recently told male employees they should not wear "earrings, nose rings and similar" and hair should be short. "All male fee earners should wear a suit - preferably in grey or navy - with a suitable tie and shirt. Blazers, sports jackets, leather jackets and flannels are not acceptable." For women, the code stipulates a dress or suit (trousers are acceptable if tailored). "First impressions are important and the dress code merely emphasises this," said Christine Parker, head of personnel.

## The ins and outs of office wear

- What's allowed:**
- Traditional M&S dark suit and tie - expected and often insisted on by many companies, especially City and law firms.
  - "Dress-down Fridays", imported to Britain by American companies, allows for more relaxed clothing as the weekend approaches, such as open-necked shirts and casual trousers, not ripped jeans, T-shirts and trainers.
  - Long hair for men - but only in the more liberal companies. Last month Norfolk ambulance man Paul Holden felt obliged to chop off his pony-tail in the face of managerial disapproval.
  - Alan Partridge-style sports-casual (notwithstanding objections on the grounds of bad taste). As long as it's smart, clean and conventional, it's acceptable.
- And what isn't**
- Men in skirts - all right for the likes of Gaultier and Galliano, but unacceptable in the office, as prison alcohol counsellor Bobi Elmes discovered when he turned up for work in a mini-skirt and was sacked.
  - Body piercing - for either men or women (at least not the bits that show). Men can probably get away with discreet earrings in more liberal companies, but nose studs are a definite no-no.
  - Traditional whites on the cricket pitch - first players went multi-coloured, now umpires like Dickie Bird and David Shepherd will be seen sporting lemons shirts and black coats.
  - Jeans, vests, Destroy T-shirts, shell-suits, Linford Christie-style cycling shorts and trainers.
  - Also unpopular - baggy shorts, Hawaiian shirts, bondage trousers and almost anything designed by Vivienne Westwood circa 1976.

# Bigger white list tightens asylum rules

Alan Travis  
Home Affairs Editor

**M**ICHAEL Howard is to shut the door on asylum seekers from three more countries by extending the official "white list" to include Ethiopia, Kenya and Tanzania. The disclosure that the Home Office wants to extend the current seven-strong white list of "safe countries" is contained in a "restricted" internal Foreign Office guidance document signed by the Foreign Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind, which has been leaked to the Guardian. More than 3,425 asylum applications were received from the three countries last year. But only 59 applicants were given asylum or exceptional leave to remain. The document also shows that the Foreign Office did not give its immediate backing to the inclusion of India and Pakistan on the original list announced by the Home Secretary in the Commons last November. The Home Office last night refused to comment on a leaked document but said the white list was "designed to be flexible so countries could be added or subtracted according to the changing situation." A spokesman denied any disagreements with the Foreign Office but confirmed it was not unusual for discussions to take place between departments. The inclusion of a particular country in the white list means that asylum claims from its citizens are, according to the document, "likely to be refused". The leaked document makes clear that the key criterion for a country to be in-

cluded in the white list is not its human rights record but the volume of asylum claims it generates and the rate at which the Home Office refuses them.

The document shows that the Home Office proposed a 10-strong list of countries it wanted included on the initial white list. They were: Bulgaria, Cyprus, Ghana, Poland, Romania, Ethiopia, India, Kenya, Pakistan and Tanzania.

In the event, Mr Howard announced that thousands of asylum applications from seven of the 10 countries would be presumed to be bogus unless proved otherwise.

But last night Amnesty International said it believed the leaked document confirmed the Home Office's ambition to extend the list to the other three countries as well.

Amnesty's refugee officer, Richard Dunstan, said: "This shows that the Home Office has a clear intention to expand the white list once the current asylum bill is on the statute book to include countries where there are serious human rights concerns."

The Home Office has paved the way for the inclusion of the three countries on the white list by introducing a visa requirement for Tanzania last month and by including all three in a new accelerated "short procedure" being used for claimants arriving at Gatwick airport.

The inclusion of Kenya will cause particular concern. Last year Baroness Chalker, as Overseas Aid Minister, said there were "still grounds for concern" about the Moi regime. Amnesty says that torture and ill-treatment by the security forces are widespread.

The leaked document makes clear that the key criterion for a country to be in-

Nepalese boy verdict, page 5

## Chunnel rail link firm faces inquiry in new sell-off blow

Rebecca Smithers  
and Keith Harper

**T**he Government-owned company planning the Channel Tunnel rail link is being investigated over alleged "improper processes", it was revealed yesterday. This latest setback to rail privatisation could further stall the progress of the long-delayed 68-mile line. The inquiry into the former British Rail subsidiary Union Railways, being carried out by its auditors Price Waterhouse, involves financial discrepancies in the company's internal buying procedures. Union Railways said only small sums were involved. However, sources indicated to the Guardian last night that "several hundred thousand pounds" were involved. It also emerged last night that Resurgence Railways has expressed interest in bidding for other railway franchises, particularly South East Rail, a London commuter line. The company was the Government's preferred bidder to run the Great Western route, but the bid fell when questions were raised about its suitability to run the passenger franchise. Its managing director, John Ansdell, was one of two directors of a double glazing company, which went bust eight months ago. The Transport Secretary, Sir George Young, had hoped to announce the private sector winner of the competition to build the Channel Tunnel link next week. The new operator will take over Union Railways and European Passenger Services, the British operator of the high-speed Eurostar trains. The Department of Transport said the inquiry was "unlikely" to affect the announcement.

# I'll see you in court, duchess tells Bryan

Former confidant 'may sue' for share of multi-million-pound Budgie income

Gary Young and Christopher Hood in Los Angeles

**T**HE Duchess of York promised yesterday to fight her former confidant, John Bryan, in court if he attempted to sue her for a share of the multi-million-pound US deal to market her cartoon character Budgie the helicopter. Mr Bryan, aged 40, who like the duchess faces severe financial difficulties, has instructed his lawyers in Frankfurt to examine details of the duchess's US agreements. He is reported to be demanding 10 per cent of the global earnings from the children's character, arguing that he was instrumental in turning it into a lucrative product. He is said to be claiming that the duchess promised him a third of all her earnings from Budgie's TV, film and publishing rights. Last night Mr Bryan's German lawyer, Armin Groepner, said that "purely theoretically" it was conceivable that Mr Bryan could sue the duchess in Germany. "As you know, under English law, you can't sue the royal house." However, a spokeswoman for the duchess said: "Her Royal Highness denies absolutely any agreement with Mr Bryan concerning the prospective income from her cartoon character Budgie. She

will therefore defend vigorously any proceedings which Mr Bryan might choose to initiate on the subject." A source at the animation and merchandising company Sleepy Kids, which holds the world exclusive marketing rights for Budgie, said: "In 1992 the Duchess of York sold us the rights for Budgie for 15 years. "Mr Bryan was definitely heavily involved in the negotiations for the deal. But nowhere was he officially acknowledged and he is not named in the deal. The case would depend entirely on whatever contract he had with the duchess." Sources close to the duchess say Mr Bryan was paid when the original £2.5 million contract was signed with Sleepy Kids. But Mr Bryan has been reported as saying: "Half of

my staff were working for her and it was all coming out of my pocket. A lot of people were hired just for her. There were lawyers doing all her deal and administrators for charities and everything else - all on my buck." Mr Bryan's financial affairs are under strain after the collapse of his property company, Oceanics Deutschland. He set up the German company in 1990 at a time when interest rates were high and when property prices nosedived. It crashed last summer and his business partner, Alan Starkie, was arrested for an alleged \$90,000 fraud. Mr Bryan, a Texan, is reported to owe £6,414 to his solicitors, Penningtons, more than £3,000 in rent on a penthouse in Chelsea, and almost £2,000 in unpaid bills to British Telecom and British Gas. Last year American Express sued him for failing to pay a £15,000 bill on his platinum card. Currently thought to be in Los Angeles, he leads something of a nomadic existence, but is often seen in Beverly Hills and Bel-Air. He sometimes stays at the five-star Peninsula Hotel in Beverly Hills, where rooms start at \$325 a night and rise to \$3,000, but has not visited recently. He also stays with friends in Bel-Air, an exclusive community which regards its neighbour Beverly Hills as rather flashy. But although he was in residence recently, an acquaintance said Mr Bryan had left for destinations unknown. Meanwhile, the duchess has a \$3 million overdraft with Coutts bank and faces the prospect of being sued by her former friend, the socialite Lily Mahani.

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**G2 cover story**

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# The Scott report: key players in the spotlight...



**John Major**  
Prime Minister: was Foreign Secretary and Chancellor when arms exports to Iraq were discussed in Whitehall. His role was given a paper which suggested that arms export policy to Iraq had been secretly relaxed. Was warned by former trade minister Alan Clark that machine tool companies had been given a "nod and wink" to export to Iraq. When Matrix Churchill, was prosecuted by Customs for exporting to Iraq and the trial collapsed in 1992, Major, as PM, set up the Scott inquiry. Scott's likely verdicts gave inaccurate information to MPs about export policy towards Iraq. His defence: he was not told the details or did not remember.



**William Waldegrave**  
Chief Secretary to the Treasury: was Foreign Office minister, 1988-90, responsible for relations with Iraq and liaison with MIA. Civil Service minister responsible for open government when he gave evidence to the inquiry. His role approved secret change in export guidelines. Approved Matrix Churchill machine tool exports knowing, from MIA reports, they would be used to make arms. Scott's likely verdicts he misled MPs, but perhaps not change in export guidelines. "Deliberately". Wrong in insisting at inquiry that policy to Iraq did not change. His defence: policy did not change - just interpretation of existing policy.



**Michael Heseltine**  
Attorney General: responsible for Whitehall lawyers who handled Matrix Churchill prosecution. His role advised ministers they had a duty to sign Public Interest Immunity (PII) certificates. Scott's likely verdicts: led to ensure that Michael Heseltine's doubts about signing PII were passed to MC prosecution. Had a mistaken view of aspects of PII law. Generally misjudged. His defence: took high-level, independent, legal advice on PII law.



**Nicholas Lyell**  
Social Security Secretary: was Trade and Industry Secretary, 1990-92, responsible for export licences. His role: signed PII certificates before the Orlicac and Matrix Churchill prosecutions, but believed the MC prosecution would fail after hearing Paul Handerson, main Matrix Churchill defendant, was MIA informant. Scott's likely verdicts: should have been more rigorous about PII advice from Sir Nicholas, and should have paid more attention to the documents covered by certificates. Acted in good faith, if badly advised. Defence: accepted advice from Sir Nicholas and officials in good faith.



**Kenneth Clarke**  
Chancellor: was Home Secretary, 1992-95, then responsible for MIA as well as MIA. His role: signed two PII certificates for Matrix Churchill trial. Claimed at inquiry that innocent lives would be at risk if disclosure covered by PII was disclosed. Said he would resign if inquiry found him at fault. Scott's likely verdicts: acted in good faith, but adopted a too casual and inconsistent approach towards PII. His defence: His views on PII had no effect on the trial. Acted in good faith.



**Geoffrey Hoon**  
Foreign Secretary: Defence Secretary, 1992-95. His role: Signed a PII certificate before Matrix Churchill trial. Conceded at the inquiry that certificates were presented to ministers in "standard form, even though they were drawn up to imply they were the result of a minister's personal value judgement". Scott's likely verdicts: Acted in good faith, on bad advice. His defence: Acted in good faith, though PII law should be changed.



**Peter Mandelson**  
Deputy Prime Minister: was Trade and Industry Secretary, 1992-95, taking over from Lilley. His role: reluctantly signed PII certificate after originally refusing. Warned it would look as though he was engaged in a "cover up". Said "no national interest" would mean the documents should not be released. Undermined Sir Nicholas Lyell at the inquiry. Scott's likely verdicts: Praised for questioning advice about PII claims and pointing out failures in the way PII certificates are handed to ministers by Whitehall lawyers at short notice. His defence: None needed.



**Robin Butler**  
Cabinet Secretary and head of the civil service: responsible for running Whitehall and ensuring intelligence reports are properly distributed. His role: advised that Whitehall documents should not be disclosed to the Matrix Churchill defence, and failed to ensure relevant documents were given in time to the prosecution. Scott's likely verdicts: passed the buck and avoided the question of who should take responsibility for any misleading of Parliament - ministers or civil servants. His defence: upheld traditional constitutional principles. Could not interfere with independence of Customs as a prosecuting authority.

# Whitehall builds Scott fallout shelter

## Labour shares officials' fury over handling of report

Richard Norton-Taylor and David Hencke

A TEAM of hand-picked civil servants from across Whitehall will today start preparing a damage limitation exercise for government ministers over Sir Richard Scott's five-volume report into the arms-to-Iraq scandal.

The team will draw up guidance for government whips to distribute to Tory MPs, and prepare a media pack to be handed to journalists as soon as the report is officially published next Thursday.

Sir Robin Butler, the Cabinet Secretary, has agreed with Sir Richard that only those who have given a written assurance that they will keep it to themselves will receive advance copies of the report. They include individuals expected to be criticised by the judge, notably William Waldegrave, Chief Secretary to the Treasury and former Foreign Office minister, and

the Attorney General, Sir Nicholas Lyell.

Civil servants who are expected to be criticised are as furious as Labour over the handling of the report. Liz Symons, general secretary of the First Division Association which represents senior officials, yesterday described the

'It is of paramount importance that ministers give truthful information to the House'

arrangements as "thoroughly inequitable".

Although civil servants named in the report have been given the unprecedented right to defend themselves in public, Whitehall managers have imposed strict conditions on what they can say. Ms Symons said they have been told to clear their state-

## Judge hits back at criticisms

Government and Parliament must change the political culture which made this scandal possible, said Mr Cook.

Sir Robin Butler told MPs yesterday that he would be accountable for his actions whatever the findings of the Scott inquiry says.

Sir Robin, the first civil servant to have access yesterday to the final report, was being questioned by the Commons public services select committee on the future of Whitehall last night.

He told Giles Radice, its Labour chairman: "I will be accountable for its findings

notice to see the report before publication.

He told MPs that the Government was still discussing whether to allow civil servants more time.

"No decision has been made", he said.

But most MPs and journalists believe that ministers will not be able to resist the temptation to put their gloss on the report before official publication date.

Tory MPs will be particularly anxious to find out what Sir Richard says about the handling of the prosecution of three former Matrix Churchill directors. Four serving cabinet ministers signed Public Interest Immunity certificates which, if upheld by the trial judge, could have led to the businessmen being unjustly imprisoned.

Labour is concerned as much by what Sir Richard says about why ministers repeatedly misled Parliament as about what the real policy was on arms exports to Iraq.

Documents disclosed at the Scott inquiry showed that the Government was mainly concerned about the outcry the disclosure of the shift in policy would have provoked as a result of Saddam Hussein's gassing of Iraqi Kurds.

Leader comment, page 5; Waiting in silence, page 9

## Most MPs believe that ministers will put their gloss on the report before publication date

but as to responsibility I shall cross that bridge when I come to it."

He said he hoped that there would not be premature coverage of the report in the newspapers.

Earlier he was careful to deny that a decision had been taken not to allow civil servants more than six hours

continued from page 1 before the Commons debate begins.

Miss Boothroyd took the rare step of making her feelings known after Labour and the Liberal Democrats had complained bitterly about news management designed to get ministers - but not civil servants - off the hook in the controversy over covert arms sales and the abortive trials of businessmen.

Although she stressed the timing was a matter for the Government, the cabinet secretary, Sir Robin Butler, last night hinted that no final decisions had been taken as 25 copies of the final 1,300-page report were sent to the cabinet office by Sir Richard.

The judge made plain he had not wished to give the Government copies eight days in advance. It gives ministers "eight days to find ways of shifting the blame," Labour protested, yesterday as Robin Cook, the shadow foreign secretary, led a drive to prevent the Government neutralising Scott's impact.

He told John Major to stop the "Tory campaign" to undermine the inquiry.

Ministers have stressed that the report will be published, not as a department paper, but as a House of Commons document under the 1840 Parliamentary Papers Act, expressly to give it cast iron protection from any threat of libel actions.

It will be issued at 3.30pm next Thursday when Ian Lang, the Trade Secretary, makes a Commons statement. The shadow leader of the House, Ann Taylor, protested yesterday that this left MPs no time to study it. Downing Street said Miss Boothroyd's remarks would be carefully considered.

But Guardian inquiries last night confirmed that - contrary to Whitehall guidance - MPs and the media could be given advance copies without jeopardising the libel protection. If ministers wished they could publish it safely at any time after they have laid the appropriate return on the Commons order paper.

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News in brief

'Quiet wedding' for Parker Bowles

CAMILLA Parker Bowles's ex-husband Andrew, aged 56, yesterday married Rosemary Pitman, 54, at Chelsea register office in London. The 10-minute wedding was supposed to be a quiet affair for close family, but news of their engagement leaked out...

Cinema complexes planned

AN Anglo-American entertainment company yesterday announced plans to build 12 multiplex theatres over the next 18 months - a total of 145 screens - creating 800 jobs. Cine-UK said it planned to open a further eight Cineworld complexes over the next five years...

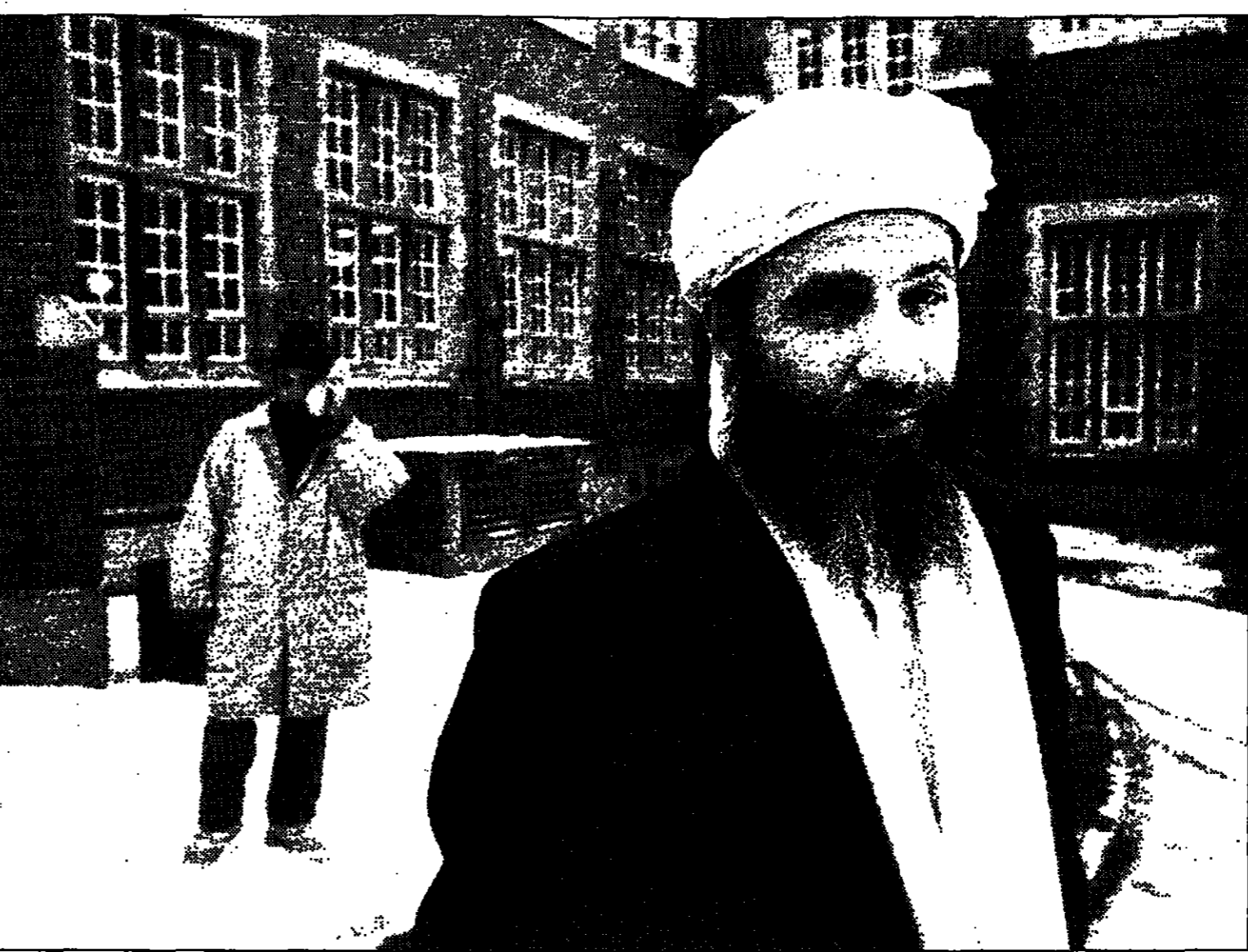
Dublin plans divorce bill

THE Irish government plans to introduce a bill "at the earliest possible opportunity" to permit divorce following the failure yesterday of a legal attempt to overturn the referendum vote for a change in legislation...

UK accused over mudflats

BRITAIN was accused yesterday of breaking a European Union conservation directive when it failed to protect mudflats in the Medway estuary on the north coast of Kent. The Government excluded the area known as Lappel Bank, important for shelduck, ringed plover, grey plover, dunlin and redshank, when classifying a wildlife preservation zone in 1993...

Ex-singer stands by query over dissident facing deportation • Rift follows resignation



Yusuf Islam... 'Muslim schools have to go with a begging bowl to affluent Muslim countries because of lack of government funding' PHOTOGRAPH DAVID SLITTON

Saudi ire shakes top Muslim school

THE future of Britain's most successful Muslim school, founded by Yusuf Islam, the former pop singer Cat Stevens, is under threat because Saudi Arabia has withdrawn 85 per cent of its annual cash subsidy. Last week, children were sent home from the 300-strong Islamia School in Brent, north London, because the heating system broke down...

year to help plug the gap between the school's annual \$450,000 fee income and its \$750,000 budget. This year, donations from Saudi Arabia - usually made during the month of Ramadan - have dropped to around £25,000. The cut appears to be changing. As well as his embarrassing intervention on behalf of Saudi dissidents - in fact, Mr Islam's private letter merely expressed concern and asked for information - the former musician was also accused of opposing the 1991 Gulf war and failing to attend...

Mas'ari's supporters and called the decision to deport the Saudi exile "an ominous turn". "We try to be unbiased," he said, "but I'm locked up I hope someone would ask about me. It is only wishing for your brother what you wish for yourself". He said the Government had put Britain's 44 Muslim schools in a position where they had to go with a begging bowl to more affluent Muslim countries rather than funding them itself. Three years ago, Islamia's bid for voluntary-aided status - in line with 7,000 Christian and 24 Jewish state schools - was turned down because of a surplus of school places in Brent. Now Islamia is hoping it stands a better chance if it applies to be grant maintained...

Islamic radical party splits

MAR BAKRI, leader of Britain's radical Muslim group, Hizb ut Tahrir, has resigned after a dispute about strategy towards the Muslim community. The rupture could have a far-reaching influence on Muslim opinion. One of the principal disagreements is said to have centred on Mr Bakri's desire to work with other Muslim groups to tackle problems he believed preoccupied the community, such as racism and unemployment. Other senior Hizb members believed such an approach would divert the party from its goal of resurrecting the old Islamic caliphate in the Middle East. Such policies reflect the party's Arab origins, though even in the Middle East the idea of an Islamic caliphate is regarded as obscure even among radicals. Other groups said by pursuing such ideals the Hizb ut Tahrir risked becoming irrelevant to British Muslims. Another dispute centred on the approach to non-Muslims with whom Mr Bakri wanted to maintain a dialogue. Other senior party members believed such contacts would jeopardise "security". They wanted the party to go "underground" and have a less high profile. Mr Bakri now says he wants to form his own party, the Muhajiroun - the Emigrants. The new party will bring together such groups as the Association of Muslim Lawyers, the Gathering of Muslim Parents and the Islamic International Front. Their profile is much more middle class and middle aged than the membership of Hizb ut Tahrir, which concentrates its activities among students. Mr Bakri says he now wants to concentrate on penetrating the predominant Pakistani community and working with other British Muslim groups. Hizb ut Tahrir's deputy, Faris Qassem, a former town planner in Islington, north London, refused to comment on the split or say who was the new leader. Both Mr Bakri and Mr Qassem say the two parties will not compete for membership.

helte hits back cisms

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Cash cuts force British Council to close offices and axe jobs

THE British Council is to close offices abroad and axe jobs because of budget cuts, and more may have to go as managers ponder axing hundreds of British-based jobs and selling premises. The eight offices - in Algeria, Yemen and unspecified countries in Africa and Latin America - are to go at once, it emerged yesterday. But up to 20 of the council's 109 overseas operations could close. Up to 500 of the 1,300 jobs based in Britain are under threat. The council said that maintaining "front line" activities abroad was its first commitment. The council focuses on teaching English as well as arranging academic and cultural exchanges. Supporters say its work creates a pro-British ambience that is of unquantifiable value for trade. It employs 4,200 staff overseas, all but 250 of them locally recruited. Its chairman, Sir Martin Jacob, was given no good news when he met the Prime Minister to discuss the crisis last week. The council has to reduce spending by £21.5 million - 17 per cent - while the Foreign Office and Overseas Development Administration have lost only about 6 per cent of their budgets. "We only have one realistic option for dealing with the cut: a major reduction in staff," a council official said. "And if we can't function with reduced UK staff we then may have to close other posts abroad."

Candidates for immediate closure are offices in countries where there are security problems, little demand, or stiff competition, especially in Francophone regions. Expanding areas, such as the former Soviet Union and the Tiger economies of Asia and the Pacific Rim, are to be spared. The council is seen as the poor relation of the BBC World Service, also funded by the Foreign Office. "The World Service has this great image because everyone knows what they do," said one Whitehall insider. "The British Council doesn't have enough PR oomph." Council staff are furious that the cuts have come despite their own recent sacrifices and the praise heaped on them at last year's Britain in the World conference. Peter Daly, secretary of the council's trade union, said: "We relocated 650 jobs to Manchester in 1992. We've got rid of about 300 jobs by voluntary retirement. We feel we've done our bit to get a leaner and more modern organisation."

Germans will face European court over 'mad cow' ban

ATTEMPTS to ban imports of British beef by three German regional governments in the wake of health scares about "mad cow" disease will be challenged in the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg, the European Commission said yesterday. Commission officials reacted to moves by the states' governments by threatening them with court action for breaching EU regulations. Rhineland-Palatinate, North Rhine Westphalia and Bavaria have announced they are banning British beef imports because of fears the beef may transmit the incurable Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, the human form of mad cow disease, despite a federal government warning such a ban is illegal under EU law. If the German ban is challenged, officials in Brussels may find themselves forcing the Germans to import beef that is itself banned in some parts of Britain. A commission spokesman claimed that a British schools' ban on beef "complicated" the action.

Tories cut Labour's poll lead on law and order to one point as crime figures fall

LABOUR is still seen as the best party on law and order, but Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, has closed the gap on only one point in the latest ICM poll for the Guardian. Asked which party has the best policies for dealing with crime, 24 per cent say Labour, 23 per cent say the Conservatives, 5 per cent say the Liberal Democrats and nearly half say no party at all. A year and a half ago, when Jack Straw took over from Tony Blair as shadow home secretary, Labour had a 14-point lead. The narrowing of the gap has coincided with and probably been caused by the fall in crime figures. Although they started falling in 1993, this did not show up in six-monthly figures released by the Home Office until September 1994, and was confirmed in April and September 1995. Brian Mahoney, Tory party chairman, constantly calls it "the biggest fall in 40 years". Labour's front bench has pointed out that, although crime figures have dropped by 10 per cent in the past two years, they have risen by 101 per cent since the Tories took office. At the same time the conviction rate has fallen.

Table showing poll results for 'Which party has the best policies for dealing with crime?' and 'Which party, if any, fits the descriptions 'villain's friend' and 'victim's friend?' for the years 1992 to 1996. Includes columns for Conservative, Labour, Lib Dem, Con lead, Lab lead, Home Sec'y, Shadow, and Villain's friend/Victim's friend.



# Site of Nazis' last shot turned into museum

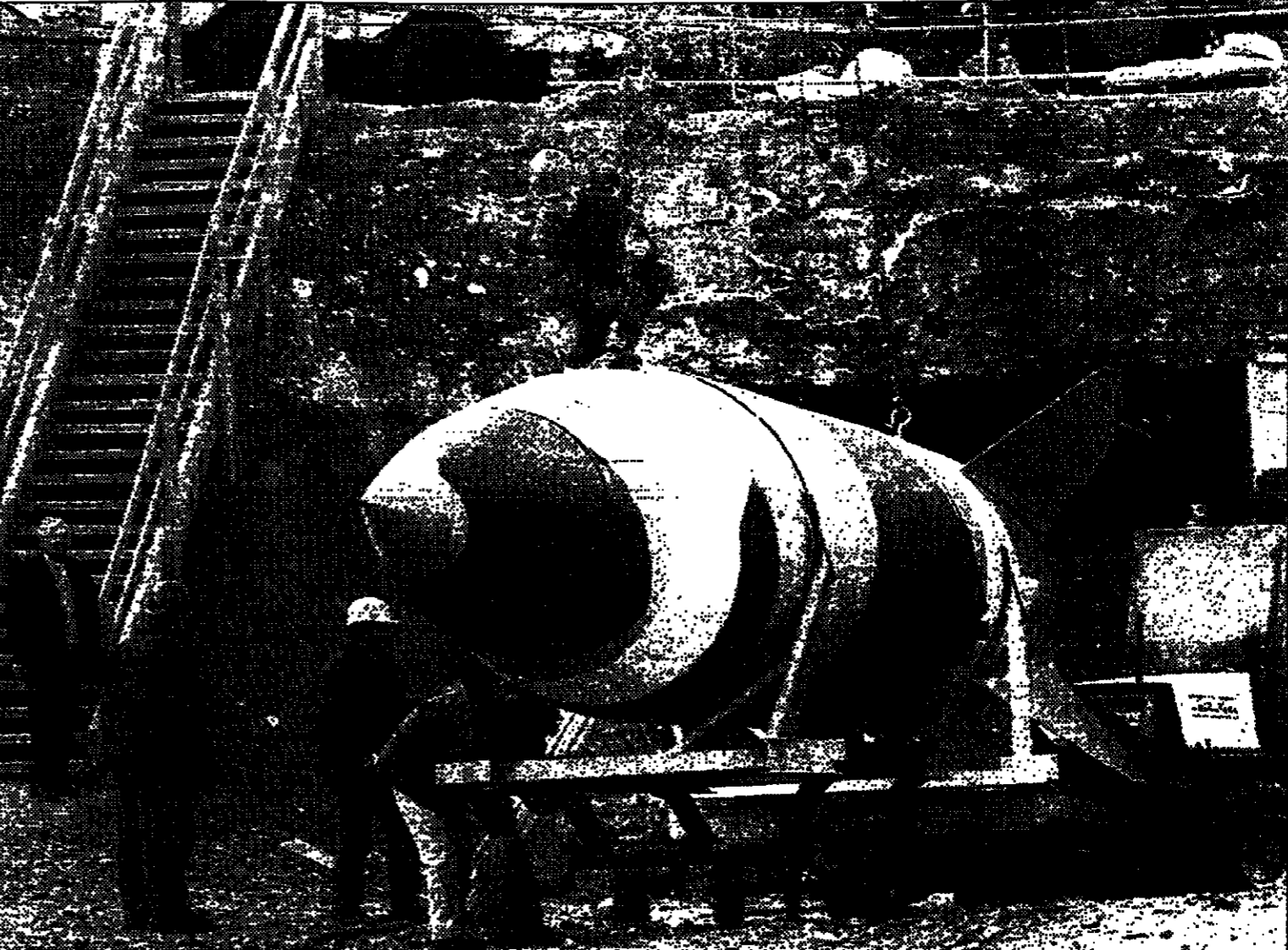
A reconstructed V-2 that should have destroyed London is a key exhibit, writes Paul Webster

MORE than 50 years after Hitler gave the order to destroy London with waves of V-2 rockets, one of the missiles was installed yesterday in the massive Pas de Calais bunker that should have been at the centre of the Nazis' last desperate throw.

The site near Saint Omer at Helfaut-Wisernes, where 50 missiles were to be launched every day, escaped serious damage, despite being hit by 3,000 tonnes of bombs, but no missiles were ever fired from it. After lying empty since the war, the bunker is being converted into the European Second World War History Centre, with a reconstructed V-2 as the key exhibit.

The RAF destroyed a nearby V-2 site and the huge raid here persuaded the Germans to abandon Helfaut and develop mobile sites elsewhere which did not have the capacity to fulfil Hitler's ambitions, the museum's curator, Guy Froment, said during a visit to the bunker.

and it inspired the most heroic resistance movement. The museum will tell all the story from all sides by not shying away from the horror. The V-2 rocket base here was built with slave labour and the missile itself constructed by prisoners at Dora, concentration camp, where they died in their thousands, unaware of their contribution to the 20th century's greatest adventure. The savagery of the Nazi rocket era has recently been underlined by the discovery in Washington archives that Werner von Braun, the most celebrated space pioneering engineer, was a member of the SS, which terrorised the slave gangs. "This was a fact that the American government deliberately kept secret," Mr Le Maner added. "Space exploration had to remain pure." The museum will open next year and is expected to attract 240,000 visitors annually, many of them British. The main area will be named after a British professor, Reginald Jones, whose intelligence work uncovered the secret weapon programme and the Helfaut site.



Unique observatory... The V2 is pulled into the bunker near St Omer, in the Pas de Calais, being converted at a cost of £8 million into a museum both of the German defeat and the birth of the space age

# Serb officers face tribunal

Stephen Bates in Brussels

THE United Nations war crimes tribunal in The Hague said yesterday it was considering indicting two senior Serbian army officers for civilian atrocities after they were picked up by Bosnian government forces while on their way to a meeting with Nato officers.

General Djordje Djukic, a close aide to Ratko Mladic, the Bosnian Serb army commander, and Colonel Aleksa Krmanovic were seized after taking a wrong turning near Sarajevo last week. Richard Goldstone, the tribunal prosecutor, has asked for their arrest while they are investigated for failing to stop their troops firing on civilians throughout the siege of Sarajevo. The Serbian government reacted angrily to the definition suspending contact with the Bosnian government and demanding Nato forces intervention to release them. General Milan Gvero, the Serbian army deputy commander, said they must be released "if peace is to be maintained in Bosnia". Justice Goldstone's request strengthens the Bosnian government's hand by stating that the arrest of the Serb officers comes under the terms of the Geneva convention on genocide. If they are extradited to the tribunal's headquarters in The Hague, the two officers will be the second and third

suspects to be charged with war crimes in the Bosnian conflict. Bekir Gavrankapetanovic, president of the Bosnian government's war crimes commission, said Gen Djukic and Col Krmanovic were responsible for the crimes committed by troops under their command if they did not prevent killings or were giving orders for others to carry them out. A tribunal spokesman declined last night to give details of the allegations against the two men. But a tribunal statement thanked the Bosnian government for its co-operation and pointedly reminded other governments that they were also obliged to assist its investigations. Earlier this week Antonio Cassese, the tribunal's president, expressed disappointment that the Serb and Croat authorities had shown a lack of co-operation since the signing of the Dayton peace agreement. Hundreds of angry Bosnian Croats besieged the headquarters of the European Union mission in Mostar and assaulted its leader yesterday because of his proposal for reunifying the city. Hans Koschnick, the EU administrator, was trapped in his armoured car by protesters who danced on top of the vehicle, chanting that the German diplomat should be killed. Several EU vehicles were overturned and damaged.

# Yeltsin orders targeting of West's hi-tech secrets

David Hearst in Moscow

PRESIDENT Boris Yeltsin gave his beleaguered prime minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin, 10 days yesterday to produce a plan to reinforce and re-equip the entire Russian army and defence industry, a sign that the president is preparing to batten down the pre-election hatches. Mr Yeltsin accused Western security services of undermining Russia's military potential, and ordered a radical programme of hi-tech rearmament. He claimed that Western special services had organised a "brain drain" of Russia's most talented military scientists to get Russia's secrets and weaken its high technology potential. Speaking to the national security council, he ordered intelligence chiefs to step up their efforts to secure for Russia the West's high-technology secrets. He instructed Vyacheslav Tрубников, head of the for-

sign intelligence service (SVR), "to prepare proposals for improving the mechanisms of using scientific information received through foreign intelligence in the interests of technological rearmament". Mr Chernomyrdin's task is virtually impossible, given its size, and is a sign of the political pressure his enemies are putting on him. Mr Yeltsin's words pleased his many intelligence and army critics, who accuse him of neglecting Russia's defence and hi-tech industries in the name of free-market reform. His accusation against Western spies is partly political, in that it offers his nationalist critics an easy explanation of Russia's current industrial weakness. But it is partly based on serious Russian intelligence estimates. The federal security service claimed last year to have identified and expelled more than 60 foreign agents from Nizhni Novgorod, near the Russian nuclear-bomb making centre.

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I know you thought the job of Heritage Secretary would be fun. How could you possibly guess that you'd be mugged in a state retirement home by a bunch of geriatric sports fans? Vincent Hanna





Diary Matthew Norman

It is Jeremy Paxman's most famous dictum that, when interviewing a politician, his constant thought is: "Why is this bastard lying to me?" To you, Jeremy, and to all you other nasty cynics, I am delighted today to present an honest politician. It is the Deputy Prime Minister, First Secretary of State, Mr. Heseltine. When Mr. Heseltine said that his business techniques included keeping his creditors waiting, he was telling the simple truth. Guardian cartoonist Martin Rosen reports that the then President of the Board of Trade asked to buy a drawing which featured him as Chairman Mao (he had just been to China) for £300. The cheque did not come. Martin rang the Trade department four or five times, and each time was asked to remind the President of that. The President's amnesia stretched on for two and a half months, and only when Martin was close to issuing a winding-up order on the Board of Trade did the cheque arrive. Mr. Heseltine is worth about £40 million.

MEANWHILE, a visitor to the Cabinet Office was amused to find a copy of World of Interiors in the waiting area. Among the magazine's many useful articles was one headed "How to improve your furniture". Please God this gives Mr. Heseltine no big ideas about replacing the Harrods furniture on which he lavished £40,000 of our money last summer.

HAVE received a phone message, not, alas, from my missing friend Dr. Julian Lewis, but from one of Mandy Mandelson's little helpers. It seems that, in one crucial respect, yesterday's item on Mandy's role as head of all Labour Party campaigning was incorrect. At the public meeting to welcome him to Millbank Tower, the Blair apparatchik Margaret McDonagh did not say: "We wish you'd never left, Mandy". She in fact said: "We wish you'd never left, Peter." This seems a salutary time to remind all of you that Mr. Mandelson's given name is Peter. Mandy is an affectionate nickname, the use of which Miss McDonagh (an employee, after all, and not a friend) doubtless felt would be a show of over-familiarity. This sentiment does her great credit.

AM confused by the election campaign for the Rectorship of Glasgow University. Voting is on February 23, and a coalition of leftwing Labour and Liberal Democrats (led from afar by cuddly MP George Galloway) wants Saudi dissident Mohammed al-Mas'ari as Rector. He would be deported to Dominica — he is entitled to return each month to chair the university's finance meeting, or so they hope. Mr. al-Mas'ari has widespread support: rightwing incumbent Johnny Ball (Zoe's dad) is willing to retire, and Ian Hislop already has. The stumbling block, it seems, is the Blairite Labour club which refuses to withdraw Richard Wilson, even though the actor is known to stand aside. I cannot decide which is more baffling — the Blairites' eagerness to associate with a self-confessed Socialist (Mr. Wilson was once on the Redgrave wing in Equity), or their apparent distaste for Mr. al-Mas'ari.

Exciting news from the world of retailing. Knightsbridge Crown Court is pioneering the judicial expansion of iron curtain stodge to selling general goods as well. Eager to avoid the trap of over-stocking, the display cabinet contains precisely three products — aspirin, notebooks and black tights. The aspirin are clearly for prisoners, and the notebooks for reporters. Only on enquiry, however, do we learn that the tights are for judges. Apparently they have terrible trouble with ladders.

FOREIGN Office mandarins wandered into the loo at the Commons press gallery yesterday, and saw a large toilet paper dispenser bearing the maker's name Scott. "This shows the thoroughness," he said proudly, "with which the government smear campaign is being conducted."



Look forward in anger

Commentary Hugo Young

WHAT Labour needs most from the Scott Report is not William Waldegrave's head on a plate. That might be appetising, but the meal would soon be over. The more essential outcome is a surge of rabid anger from voters discovering for the first time how, under the slimy stones, they are sometimes governed. Unless they wake up, Tony Blair's constitutional lecture last night, billed as a key text of New Labour's new politics, runs the risk of leading nowhere. He addresses popular despair with politics, which he said "touches the vitals of the nation". But the normal condition of Britain is that the despair is seldom great enough.

The Scott Report should do something to correct that. The coincidence of lecture and report is therefore favourable. Whatever else Scott achieves, he will supply a unique public guide to the private, secretive, double-

dealing world of unaccountable power which Whitehall created for the purpose of selling weaponry to Iraq. He will show just what ministers and officials are prepared to get up to and then either conceal or justify. He will lead many people to doubt not only whether present ministers were honest but whether the system, behind the screen of executive power, is any longer capable of integrity. If Mr Blair's new politics mean anything, they surely need to promise that this world will change. Politicians who have been in opposition so long, it is true, are liable to be innocent in such matters. Their open-eyed amazement may be genuine, but not necessarily durable. Whether Labour ministers, once grizzled by power, would be any more open and honest than Tories in supervising an arms industry that makes \$5,000 million a year from exports is a question to which affirmative answers can't be guaranteed. But Scott will reveal a rotten bureaucracy, a corrupt political culture, a system so lacking in curbs on the arrogance of executive power that just about the entire Labour Party will line up behind the constitutional reforms to which the leader reaffirmed his commitment yesterday.

The project, however, faces obstacles which the party has hitherto but dimly recognised. Like some other aspects of Labour policy, the question whether the people really understand and agree with it is only now being raised in earnest. The gib listing of the old litany — Freedom of Information, Bill of Rights, Lords reform, Scottish and Welsh devolution — needs a new treatment to lift it beyond the realm of acquiescent chattering. For one can never say too often that, in these matters, Britain is a terribly conservative country. The Tories' appeal to preserve the status quo, reiterated by the party chairman, may be dismal government but, outside Scotland, may not be bad politics. Nor, if Labour gets to power, can ministers rely on this changing. Even a large majority will be vulnerable to the Tories' claim that obstructing reform with every weapon at their disposal is their sacred duty to the constitution.

In short, constitutional reform won't work if it can't muster more than public tolerance. Without a sense of despair, the mandate for change may soon seem flimsy. Nothing more deeply divides the parties than this stuff. Its most naked battle-ground. Yet unless the case for reform can be made the vehicle of public anger, the battle may end in stalemate — ie defeat for Mr Blair.

One source of failure could be in the detail. He could be

little to say about that last night. Choosing his words delicately, Blair seemed to say that, while needing democratic legitimacy, the second chamber might not have to be entirely elected. There might be room for selected stars with good credentials. He took on the increasingly damaging notion of the Lords as a kind of super-quango, filled up with his own appointees. This wouldn't happen, he said. "There are no absolutes." Fair enough. But it will remain unacceptable if the interim, unelected super-quango turns out to be as far as anyone is prepared to go. As argued here before, better reform than the pretence that election would present after all an intolerable challenge to the House of Commons.

Detail, equally, could be the unmaking of a creditable devolution that the Scots and Welsh are proud of. Even here, where more work has

been done, and where local public demand is not in doubt, parliamentary obstruction could ride on the back of legitimate criticism if the specific proposals do not make sense. Quite rightly, Mr Blair took apart the preposterous Tory argument that an assembly with the power to raise taxes must by definition bring in a Tartan Tax. But he knows as well as anyone how devolution could yet wreck his programme: which is why

Code (superseded by a new code on January 1, 1996) which said civil servants owe duties of confidentiality and loyalty to the Crown. Since constitutionally the Crown acts on the advice of ministers who are answerable for their departments in Parliament, these duties are for all practical purposes obsolete. The most memorable mobilisation of the second chamber in recent years gave us the unifying sight of a gaggle of undead peers descending from a convoy of taxis in 1988, to vote down the proposition that the poll tax should be charged according to ability to pay. As a rule of thumb, those absent peers seem to be roused only by the uplifting trump of class or party interest. But Tuesday's debate was different: as the Voice of Reason, Lord Wyatt, observed, it was a display of nationalism, or, as he high-mindedly put it, xenophobia. A media tycoon, a Johnny foreigner at that, was proposing to deprive the nation of the right to its own rituals.

The curious thing is that this is hardly new. The Lords did not stir when the same tycoon acquired that national institution, the Times, or when satellite broadcasting was exempt from the rules limiting cross-media ownership. Nor did they seem to think it inapt that he should use his press to campaign against the BBC, in favour of the broadcasting free market.

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Waiting in silence

Elizabeth Symons bemoans the unfair difference in the treatment of civil servants and their masters, and Michael White recalls previous government wriggles off hooks

THERE has been much talk in newspapers recently about an alleged Westminster/Whitehall "conspiracy" to undermine the findings of Sir Richard Scott's inquiry into the Matrix Churchill affair. The report of the Royal Commission under the chairmanship of Lord Justice Salmon in 1986 said that the problems of dealing with such judicial inquiries were such that, "if in the future there is a nationwide crisis of confidence about any matters of this kind, they should in our opinion be investigated before a tribunal brought under the Act of 1921". Such a tribunal was not established in respect of the Matrix Churchill inquiry, because it was thought that the process

would be too lengthy. Sir Richard himself, giving his first press interviews, said that he hoped to report within a matter of months. Sadly he was proved mistaken. Over three years later, the concerns we had in 1982 remain. Most importantly, those who may be the subject of criticism which may damage their reputation, ruin careers and ultimately lead to very public dismissal have not had the opportunity to cross-examine the evidence which has been brought against them. Leaks from the inquiry throughout 1995 prompted government ministers to take to the airwaves to defend themselves as robustly as they could. Civil servants, however, were not able to take such action. Civil servants remained bound by the Civil Service

inquiry option, as Labour's Robin Cook keeps saying. Scott is naive and ignorant, they say. Ian Lang, the current trade secretary, has been deputised to handle the Commons statement, not Mr Major. Some Labour MPs fear "another Westland" if his Labour shadow, Margaret Beckett, lacks the detail to cope. She will not get much time. Ministers are invoking the need to avoid libel threats to justify not handing out advance texts of the 1,900-page report. Selective leaking between now and then may get ministers off media hooks and impale Tory MPs on the pre-election "unity" hook. In 1982 the Sun famously proclaimed "Gotcha". The Opposition would do well not even to think it can do the same.

Whitewash by the gallon

at least Lord Carrington's Foreign Office team had resigned when the 1982 invasion was confirmed. At least the Westland Gascoigne did not sell to European or US helicopter firms in 1986 — smoked out by Leon Brittan as well as Michael Heseltine. But Mrs Thatcher escaped, not least because Neil Kinnock's speech in the key debate missed an open goal. Already huge efforts are being made to minimise the damage from what Mr Major sees as his last awkward legacy from Mrs T. Backed by Douglas Hurd, Lord Howe (the Chancellor whose penny-pinching defence cuts in 1982 gave the junta its green light) has rubbished the Scott process, though it was their choice over the tribunal-of-

Elizabeth Symons is general secretary of the Association of First Division Civil Servants

Crown jewels are not for sale just yet



Isabel Hilton

HAVE always been sceptical about the peripheral social benefits claimed by organised sport. Its shortcomings are too sharply pointed for instance, were brought home by the headline in a Scottish newspaper in 1978 that celebrated Scotland's qualification for the World Cup in Argentina. "Rio here we come!" it announced, in letters four inches high. But perhaps I shall have to reconsider: the sight of all that ruffled ermine on Tuesday as the House of Lords wound itself up to inflict defeat on the Government over the availability of sport on television was pretty arresting stuff. After 15 years of steady erosion of the accepted notion of public good, the nation has stirred.

During the last election campaign, Norma Major revealed that she had bought her husband a satellite-television dish for his birthday. So perhaps Mr Major, as one of the minority of British householders subscribing to satellite television, hadn't taken in the import of the broadcasting deals that threatened to remove the "crown jewels" of sport from terrestrial television.

Sport on television bores me rigid. But yesterday's Lords debate did not. It is rare indeed that the upper house is moved to action on behalf of the lower orders. The most memorable mobilisation of the second chamber in recent years gave us the unifying sight of a gaggle of undead peers descending from a convoy of taxis in 1988, to vote down the proposition that the poll tax should be charged according to ability to pay. As a rule of thumb, those absent peers seem to be roused only by the uplifting trump of class or party interest. But Tuesday's debate was different: as the Voice of Reason, Lord Wyatt, observed, it was a display of nationalism, or, as he high-mindedly put it, xenophobia. A media tycoon, a Johnny foreigner at that, was proposing to deprive the nation of the right to its own rituals.

Labour & BR

Labour sat back and said rail privatisation wouldn't happen, yet £1.8 billion has been wasted and £800 million a year in public subsidy looms. Making franchises "publicly accountable" won't address the inherent inefficiencies of a fragmented system. Reintegration is inevitable.

Labour has been asked to protect public funds by keeping its options open, including renationalisation without compensation. This does not require any policy or spending commitments. Though late in the day, the BR sell-off can be halted and reversed — whether Labour grasps the nettle now (which we would applaud) or not.

Suzon Forsey-Moore, Adviser Action for Justice, PO Box 54, Cambridge CB5 8BB Tel/Fax: 01223 327834 a4j.info@msuniln.org On May 25, 1995 in the Financial Times, Action for Justice first notified prospective investors in BR that they risked renationalisation without compensation as depriving the UK of an integrated rail system without the consent of the people was a wrongful act, undertaken without moral authority. The argument can be won in the court of public opinion with your support. AAJ is an action, not a membership, group. A "no frills" operation (no rent, no salaries), we ask for one-off donations only. We thank the hundreds who responded to our December advertisements, your donations to help "tell truth to power" party funded this ad. Enclosed is a one-off donation of £ [cheque/PO made out to Action for Justice] SAE enclosed. Send info re AAJ's Citizens' Initiative (to surcharge ex-ministers for willful misconduct) endorsed by prominent academics, lawyers, writers and citizen activists. Please do not send mailings Name [block capitals] Address Postcode ACTION for JUSTICE the independent campaign for government accountability

Gianandrea Gavazzeni

Musical ride with excursions

FOR Gianandrea Gavazzeni, the Italian conductor who has died aged 86, contrast was the essence of life. He was a solidly trained musician who dedicated a great deal of time to the study of subjects that had nothing to do with music...



Gavazzeni: vast repertoire

my fist through a glass door," he recalled. "When people I know become general managers or artistic directors of big opera companies, I send them my condolences, not my congratulations..."

arts bureaucracy (he once interrupted a concert, turned to the audience and demanded the resignation of the man who was then minister of entertainment), his attachment to his native country was total.

tion, and during the thirties Petrucci, Gavazzeni and the music historians Fedele D'Amico and Massimo Mila formed a convivial foursome that lasted until their deaths.

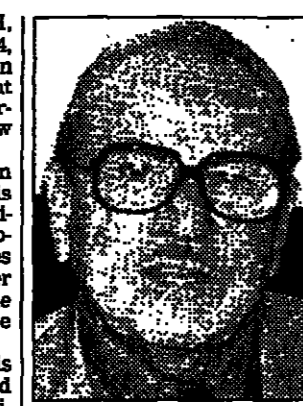
zetti and Mussorgsky, but most of his published volumes were collections of wide-ranging essays and diary entries that dealt with various aspects of music, the theatre (song and spoken), Italian and French literature, painting and plain, everyday life.

him. Like most other theatre people, he loved to gossip, but, unusually, even his gossip usually turned out to be correct. At 82, he himself became a subject of talk when, after his first wife died, he married Denis Mazzola, a 38-year-old soprano he had recently met.

Burne Hogarth

A vine romance

BURNE HOGARTH, who has died aged 84, was the strip-cartoon artist who brought Edgar Rice Burroughs's Tarzan of the Apes back to new and dramatic life.



King of the swingers... a transformed Tarzan, right, as drawn by Burne Hogarth

1934. In 1935 he drew the pirate strip Pieces of Eight and a year later was given his first big break when Hal Foster left the Sunday Tarzan strip to start on a new character, Prince Valiant.

period he experimented with other forms of "thrill" drama, creating a strip entitled Drago and, in 1947, beginning his only humourous strip, Miracle Jones.



Burne Hogarth, strip-cartoon artist, born December 25, 1911; died January 28, 1996

Mary Bruce

Dancing on mean streets

MARY BRUCE, who died aged 85, taught street kids of Chicago's South Side and Harlem to dance — as well as stars like Marlon Brando, Katherine Dunham, and Dorothy Dandridge.

Bruce was born of African-American, Irish and Chinese descent in Mississippi but by 1909 her family had arrived in Chicago. A wealthy lawyer friend of the family funded her ballet school attendance, and by the age of 15 she was touring with the company of more friendly financial assistance and a forceful policy of offering free lessons to children in the South Side

while developing her own brand of "rhythmic dance". Her professional performances developed alongside the teaching, and Duke Ellington's assistant director, Andy Razaf, urged her to come to Harlem to work with Leslie, he was warm and a rival dance school just a few doors away she left for New York.

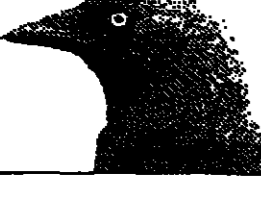
gotten, however, in her determination to establish herself. Bruce set up a new studio above the Baby Grand Club at the corner of St Nicholas Avenue and West 135th Street, where she taught for 50 years.

She scoured the neighbourhood for pupils but in doing so had to contend with street gangs, prompting her to enrol at Columbia University on psychology and Spanish courses. She soon got the best of "the enemy" — her Saturday morning classes were packed with boys, all eager to perform in her Starbuck troupe. She held annual performances at either Carnegie Hall or City Centre when

leading tap-dancers such as Bill "Bojangles" Robinson and "Honi" Coles were happy to guest. Her young dancers had ethnic backgrounds and so many honours came her way over the years the business contracted as she grew older and the school site was sold off to pay tax charges. In 1985 she was evicted from her studio by the landlord as property values rose in the area.

Her legacy can be seen in various film, TV and stage productions but her influence went further than that. "It was the great Mary Bruce who first made me proud I was a Negro," recalled her pupil Marie Bryant. Bruce gave her innumerable pupils the confidence to take pride in their identity and diverse ethnic backgrounds and so played a significant part in ensuring the survival of a major area of American culture.

Jackdaw



INEXORABLY zoning out into a kind of "neuter" effect. Pleasant enough, this feeling of being at the centre of a curiously whistling (kind of like white noise but without the noise), but was this why I had started taking it in the first place? To end up on a kind of heroin-without-the-kick(s)?

being this nice new neutered, frozen, prone, Prozac me. Whole days went by where I literally sat in my Prozac Chair staring out the window. Sure, I no longer swung like an amphetamine-mimed ape between twitchy peaks, but was this really preferable? The cruel paradox: I began to manifest all the symptoms of chronic depression. I am not repeat NOT your suicidal type character: it is just not in my emotional makeup... But as my bright Prozac Indian summer turned into a dry effectless autumn, it got to the stage where I realised I was coldly considering — really, truly considering — suicide as an option.

I've learned to love emptiness and clamour, anguish and reward, the whole prismatic register of the daily spool. Ian Penman relishes his experience with Prozac in Enquire.

friend and it's your choice. Everyone likes different things when it comes to snogging, but it's pretty much all pleasurable. You should just do what feels right.

self-mutilation, fashion, and how to put a spell on boys. A bit rich THE current debate rolling PEN American Center, the group that defends oppressed writers, is over whether or not rich people should be allowed to serve on its 96-member board of directors.

be forced to confront their own prejudice, and arrogance. That, of course, can be a painful process, and we're glad that some PEN members would rather spare themselves and their colleagues such torture. Was a blow not struck for the rights of oppressed writers everywhere when, a few years back, PEN ostracised Gaybyrd Steinberg for having the audacity to organise... social events?

Church hotline A telephone sex scandal has shaken the church authorities in Kongsvoerger in Norway. The telephones in the church office in Brandval have been used for long telephone conversations with Thailand, USA and the Philippines. It was an outrageously high bill from Telenor that caught the attention of the head of the church but he has not been able to get an explanation. The phones are accessible to the priest, the organist, the caretaker and the secretary. The question is whether it is the priest or the organist who is the culprit, since the secretary and the caretaker are women.

Jackdaw wants your jewels. E-mail jackdaw@guardian.co.uk; fax 0171-713 4866; Jackdaw, The Guardian, 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER. Dan Glaister

Chubby Wise Orange blossom specialist

CHUBBY WISE, who has died aged 80, was the fiddler with one of the most monumental bands in American vernacular music. Bill Monroe's 1946 Blue Grass Boys. It featured guitarist Lester Flatt and banjoist Earl Scruggs and helped Monroe draw the blueprint for bluegrass.

Birthdays Mohammad Azharuddin, cricketer, 33; Prof Averil Cameron, historian of Byzantium, Warden, Keeble College, Oxford, 58; David Daube, Regius Professor Emeritus of Civil Law, Oxford, 97; Olan Mills, harpist, 88; Marshall, former of the RAF Sir John Grandy, 88; Admiral of the Fleet Lord Hill-Norton, 81; Lady Elspeth Howe, chairman, Broadcasting Standards Council, 84; Lord Jakobovits, former Chief Rabbi, 75; Jack Lemmon, actor, 71; Mowat, former company secretary, the Post Office, 48; Sharman Macdonald, playwright, novelist, 45; Dr June Paterson-Brown, former chief commissioner, Girl Guides, 64; The Rev Dr John Tudor, superintendent minister, Westminster Central Hall, 88; John Williams, composer and conductor, 64.

Another Day February 8 1958. Cincinnati: This morning on the radio I heard a discussion about the kind of government Christ would establish on earth. It sounded extraordinarily like the present American administration. It would be extremely righteous, democratic, but all-consuming. It would control all the administrative offices of government, and would be directed by human agents who would resist all evil, which is on the increase all the time. Christ would remain invisible. His agents of the FBI. Stephen Spender, Journal, 1939-1963. Faber, 1965.

Death Notices FARMER, Dr Norman (Sam), On Thursday February the 8th 1996, in his 80th year, peacefully and without pain at St Peter's College Cambridge. The deeply loved husband of the late Mrs. M. J. Farmer (née 1916). Both devoted parents of David, Patsy, Polly, Hugh and John and adored by six grandchildren. Burial at St Peter's Church Cambridge Crematorium on Monday February 12th at 10.30am. Family Service at 12.30pm. Friends welcome. Memorial Service at 1.30pm. Family and Friends invited to attend. Inquiries to Mrs. J. Farmer, 12th February. Funeral directors, Frank Robinson & Sons, Barnaby, telephone 01485 82787. Family or Inquiries to Cancer Research Fund, Memorial Service will be held in London later in the year.

Jackdaw wants your jewels. E-mail jackdaw@guardian.co.uk; fax 0171-713 4866; Jackdaw, The Guardian, 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER. Dan Glaister

Financial Editor: Alex Brummer  
Telephone: 0171-239-9610  
Fax: 0171-833-4456

# Finance Guardian

Competition plans in disarray as leaked paper warns of unexpected consumer trend in favour of rivals

## Rush to step off British Gas

**Chris Barrie**  
**P**LANS to open up the gas market to competition in eight weeks' time are sliding towards chaos, as unexpectedly large numbers of customers prepare to deluge British Gas with requests to quit, an official briefing paper leaked to the Guardian warns.

This hemorrhaging of BG customers — 20 per cent in the region — will cause alarm at the company's trading division. British Gas would lose 4 million consumers if the same proportion of its customers quit once national competition starts in 1996.

Written for a meeting chaired by industry regulator, Clare Spottiswoode, two days ago, the paper also reveals that Whitehall may opt for a face-saving exercise by launching the competitive market formally on April 1 while deferring its full implementation.

Warning that the authorities will be blamed for any difficulties that arise, the briefing predicts that "the level of dissatisfaction and complaint will increase sharply" if severe problems arise.

pointing out that a "good PR campaign" would be needed, the paper suggests that this option would give Transco more time to process applications from consumers wishing to switch suppliers.

### Notebook

## Tory heartlands call the tune



Edited by Mark Milner

**A**FTER two quarter-point cuts in interest rates in as many months, expectations that a third was imminent were not high in the run-up to yesterday's regular monthly meeting between the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, and the Governor of the Bank of England, Eddie George.

first, that big enterprises under common ownership are the way to compete in a huge, fast-growing market. British Telecom, with its links with the German industrial giant, is a follower of the second — that alliances rather than acquisitions are the way ahead.



As snow ploughs and gritters struggle in the blizzards, surveyor Ron Lightfoot (left) and his team at Britain's only rock salt mine are stretched to capacity to supply councils. The 700ft deep, 12km Union Salt Mine at Winsford, Cheshire, expects to produce 1.5 million tonnes of salt this year.

## Telecoms firms square up for battle

**Mark Tran in New York and Nicholas Bannister**

**T**HE jockeying for power in the lucrative global telecommunications market continued yesterday with multi-million-pound moves on both sides of the Atlantic.

fast-growing Pacific region. They will take on front-runners BT-MCI and AT&T, who are rapidly carving up the estimated \$500 billion world market between them.

## Winchester says regulator has Chile copper deal 'concerns'

**Dan Atkinson, Patrick Donovan and Paul Murphy**

**W**INCHESTER, the commodities trading group headed by £15 million-a-year Charles 'Copperfingers' Vincent, last night said City supervisors had raised 'concerns' about a series of deals struck with the Chilean copper company Codelco.

whether further action was warranted. In an unusual move, Winchester asked Mr Justice Ognall last Friday to order the agency to make up its mind within five days, claiming that publicity surrounding the inquiry was damaging business.

today received, from the SFA, a letter setting out their potential concerns in relation to the seven trades conducted with Codelco.

### Little to gas about

**T**HE demerger of British Gas was necessary to open the way for competition, Energy Minister Tim Eggar told the House of Commons on Monday.

Behind the scenes, as the internal Department of Trade and Industry document we publish today shows, the break-neck push for competition starting in the South-west this April looks pretty chaotic.

### Huge but hairy

**T**HE planned alliance between Nynex and Bell Atlantic may not be a step on the way to rebuilding Ma Bell, the US telephone giant broken up in 1984 by the US anti-trust authorities.

As in the gas industry, some of the established players — the regional electricity companies — are making loud noises about the impossibility of meeting the date.

## Gehe bids for Lloyds Chemists

**Iain King**

**A**BIDDING war broke out yesterday for Lloyds Chemists, Britain's second biggest drugs retailer, after the German group Gehe, owner of the Hills Chemists chain, pounced with a £584 million cash offer.

chem, which owns the Moss Chemists chain, is on the point of raising its offer. The bid from Gehe, which snapped up Britain's largest pharmaceutical distributor, AAH, last year, means a bigger pay-out for Lloyds' chairman and founder, Allen Lloyd.

he was confident of successfully integrating the Lloyds business reasonably quickly. He added: "We believe that the success of our acquisitions is due to a large extent to the improved performance we encourage in the companies we acquire."

## Nothing like a Dame

**Patrick Donovan City Editor**

**D**AME Pauline Neville-Jones wanted Paris. The Foreign Office offered Bonn, but she turned it down. So now the most formidable woman in the diplomatic service has plumped for the NatWest — after a spell advising on the Bosnian peace accord.

a part-time director. Her appointment will help NatWest build up business, said chief executive Martin Owen.

## NEC deal with Groupe Bull puts Japan in PC big league

**J**APAN yesterday stepped up its fight for a leading place among the world's personal computer makers against dominant American companies such as IBM, Apple, and Compaq, writes Nicholas Bannister.

Bull that strengthens Packard Bell, the home computer maker in the United States, with 13 per cent of the market.

The deal will make Packard Bell the largest PC maker in the United States, with 13 per cent of the market.

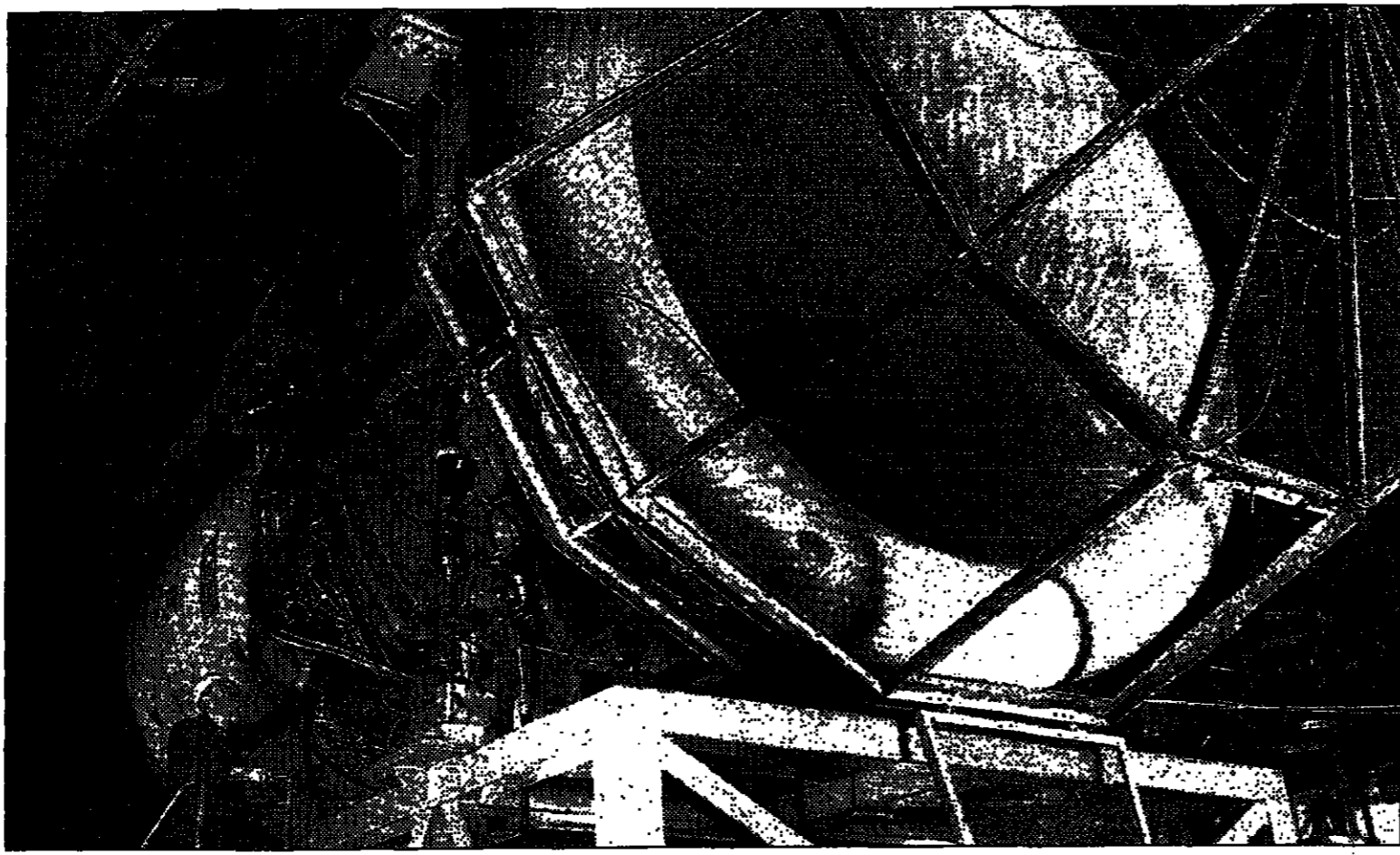
### TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS

Australia 1.88	France 7.54	Italy 2.300	Singapore 2.13
Austria 15.35	Germany 2.210	Malta 0.5450	South Africa 5.0
Belgium 45.25	Greece 370.00	Netherlands 2.4800	Spain 185.50
Canada 2.05	Hong Kong 11.09	New Zealand 2.25	Sweden 10.0
Cyprus 0.71	India 89.07	Norway 8.88	Switzerland 1.7525
Denmark 8.55	Ireland 0.9625	Portugal 230.00	Turkey 93.583
Finland 8.82	Israel 4.82	Saudi Arabia 5.71	USA 1.5025

Supplied by NatWest Bank (excluding Indian rupee and Israeli sheqel).

Rolls clinches £97m sale of Trent engines in Singapore

ROLLS-ROYCE announced another breakthrough in the lucrative South-east Asian market for its Trent 800 aero-engine yesterday, with a \$150 million (£97.6 million) order from Singapore Aircraft Leasing Enterprise (Sale) for six Trent-powered Boeing 777s, writes Simon Beavis.



News in brief

Takeover chief warns PR firms

THE Takeover Panel chairman, Sir David Calcutt, last night warned financial public relations companies to be more careful in releasing information during bid situations.

Help for disabled cut

MORE than 7,500 disabled workers will be hit by the Government's decision to restrict its Access to Work scheme — which pays for equipment and workplace adaptation to allow people with disabilities to work on an equal footing with other employees.

Headlam floors rivals

HEADLAM, the Northampton-based distribution group, became Britain's biggest floor-coverings distributor yesterday after snapping up the rival carpet transporter Mercado for up to £11 million.

Japanese surplus slashed

JAPAN'S current account surplus, the broadest measure of trade in goods and services, fell by 14.5 per cent to \$110.44 billion (£72 billion) last year, its lowest level for four years, the finance ministry announced yesterday.

BAA increases profits

BAA said nine-month pre-tax profit, excluding one-time items, rose 11.4 per cent to £861 million as growing passenger traffic boosted the airport operator's retail sales.

Porsche agrees flexibility

PORSCHE, the German luxury sports car maker, said it had agreed to halt lay-offs until the end of 1997 in return for more flexible working practices.

Manufacturing hard hit in key marginals • Demand strong on Celtic fringe • No hint of rate cuts

Downturn targets Tories

Sarah Ryle

EVIDENCE that the key electoral battlegrounds are offering most from the current economic slowdown emerged yesterday.

particularly in regions the Conservatives will need to capture to win a fifth term. A regional breakdown of a recent national survey of factory chiefs, published yesterday by the Confederation of British Industry and economic consultants Business Strategies Ltd (BSL), underlined the evidence of an overall flattening of demand.

Demand was strongest at Britain's extremities which have traditionally proved relatively barren ground for Conservatives. Demand staged a recovery in the South-west and continued to grow in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Export growth ground to a standstill in the West Midlands and slowed in the South-east but manufacturers in the South-west, Scotland and Northern Ireland continued to find success overseas.

Fears of German slump increase

Ian Traynor in Bonn

GERMANY could be heading into a slump despite government protestations to the contrary, a senior central banker said last night.

today, are tipped to reach a record level of 4.16 million, or well over 10 per cent. Yesterday the economics ministry reported that industrial orders in December were 5.1 per cent down on a year earlier, and as much as 5.5 per cent down in western Germany.

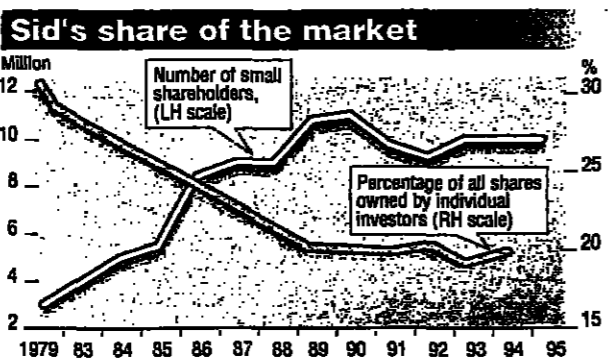
It may be too late for Aunt Maude

OUTLOOK/British Gas boss hit a nerve, writes Patrick Donovan

WHEN the definitive story of the 16-year experiment in privatisation is written, it may be an off-the-cuff remark from Richard Giordano, chairman of British Gas, which finally marks the collapse of the Conservative dream of wider share ownership.

drive to promote wider share ownership. And the comments come at a sensitive time for the Government, as efforts are made to repack the concept in the run-up to the General Election.

But look a little closer. More than 50 per cent of all private shareholders hold no more than two shares. Second, the overall number of investors has declined by a million to 10 million over the past four years — despite mega-floations including those of the Government's remaining holdings in BT and the two privatised electricity generators, National Power and PowerGen.



are no longer interested in Sid, it is hard to see what can be done. Ministers will argue that Britain has a far higher proportion of investors than France, Germany, Japan and even the US.

Underside Dan Atkinson

DOWN-SIZING, the cure-all, bottom-kicking exercise prescribed ad nauseam for British workers by bank economists, is starting to devour its devotees.

APRES-SKI (1): If, during the next few days, the Treasury seems to have got the hang of the Bank of England, Howard Davies and Manchester City are to blame.

APRES-SKI (2): GLT is not a ghastly culinary innovation along the line of the BHS sandwich, but something even worse.

BRIAN Scott, MD of Great Western Trains, celebrated Day One in the private sector with a mission statement: "Our commitment remains to the delivery of a consistent, safe and reliable service."

WITH debts of £2 billion, Peninsula & Oriental is seen by many City pundits to be going through a tight period, rhino-wise. But we betide any who say so.



THE US Treasury investigation of the Shanghai Paper Chase forgery, depicted in the 1947 thriller T-Men, could have been conducted in a much more civilised manner.

IN their determination to make the Guinness Book of Records, a group of Bulgarian musicians and actors is thought to be trying to raise £40,000 to stage a concert 18,000 feet up Mount Everest.

Advertisement for Eurostar train service. Text includes: 'NOW 19 EUROSTARS A DAY TO PARIS AND BRUSSELS. 0990 186 186'. The ad features the Eurostar logo and a starburst graphic.

Handwritten Arabic text at the bottom of the page: 'سكنا من الصلح'.

The Guardian Thursday February 8 1996

Cricket
Umpire 'no' to Sri Lanka

STEVE DUNNE of New Zealand, one of the game's leading umpires, is set to join Australia and West Indies in refusing to take part in World Cup matches scheduled for Sri Lanka.



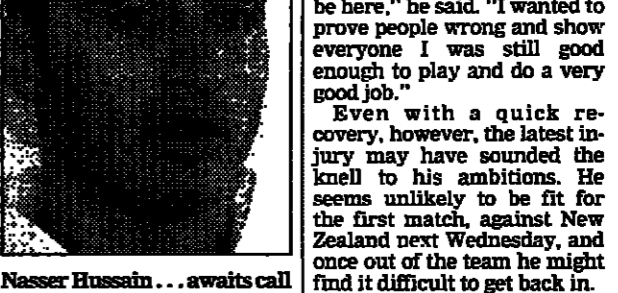
Black's white... a snow-covered Lord's makes a perfect backdrop for the umpire David Shepherd to show off the brand new black suit that he, and the other officials on the 12-man World Cup panel, will wear during the competition's night games.

Chingoka, said he intended to talk with his players, World Cup organisers, members of the ICC and the Sri Lankan authorities.

Smith goes down and maybe out

AN INJURY to Robin Smith that threatens to put him out of the World Cup has shone another spotlight on the administrative chaos blighting the tournament even before it has begun.

The batsman damaged his groin in taking a spectacular catch during England's 62-run win over a Lahore City XI in yesterday's practice match and may be out of action for a minimum of three weeks.



Nasser Hussain... awaits call

names, and the continued uncertainty about itineraries and venues and even whether they will take place at all - common sense is in short supply. Rarely can a sporting event have been anticipated with such foreboding.

Even with a quick recovery, however, the latest injury may have sounded the knell to his ambitions.

Boxing
Patterson battles for ex-fighters

Jack Massarik
LAVISH with money and trusting with business associates, successful fighters rarely retire in comfort.

work at 61, he is the acceptable face of big-time boxing.

but is now brain-damaged and penniless, having gambled away some \$10 million.

after losing to John Cutler in his first race.

Sailing
Childerley splutters out of contention behind hot Rod

STUART CHILDERLEY, Britain's match-racing world champion in the Soling class, was eliminated on the second day of the Euros Australia Cup in Perth.

Cutler and his fellow Kiwis Gavin Brady and David Clark qualified with Davis for the final series from their group.

Racing
Triumph is the ploy with Bob

Ron Cox
FIVE weeks today the final day of the Cheltenham Festival will kick off with arguably the toughest race of all for punters at the great meeting when a huge field of four-year-olds do battle for the Daily Express Triumph Hurdle.

A useful middle distance handicapper when trained by Reg Akehurst last flat season, Bob's Play has shown a real talent for jumping hurdles at the schooling grounds at Newmarket.

Bob's Play is widely available at 33-1 for Cheltenham. Once he gets that all-important first run in public behind the start, those odds could look generous.

was found wanting there he should prove different class to this opposition.

Lingfield all-weather Flat card with form guide

Table with columns for race numbers, names of horses, and their respective odds.

Table with columns for race numbers, names of horses, and their respective odds.

Bright spell for Camacho

JULIE CAMACHO is hoping her father Maurice goes away on holiday more often. Since the Malton trainer left for the summer climes of the Philippines last Sunday, the yard has had three winners from four runners.

Charnock had Kingdom Princess in control after two furlongs of the Avon Handicap and the three-year-old stayed on in determined style to see off Myrtles Mistake by two and a half lengths.

beat Mentalasanythin by eight lengths but the result was no surprise to Bailey, who said: "I told the owner he would win with Angela in the saddle as she rides the horse every day at home and gets on very well with him."

Hopes rise for Ayr on Saturday

Ayr on Saturday holds out the best prospect of a return to turf racing, Mark Kershaw, the general manager, was optimistic after consulting with the Met Office yesterday.

Catterick also anticipates milder conditions before Saturday, but the outlook is bleak elsewhere.

Results

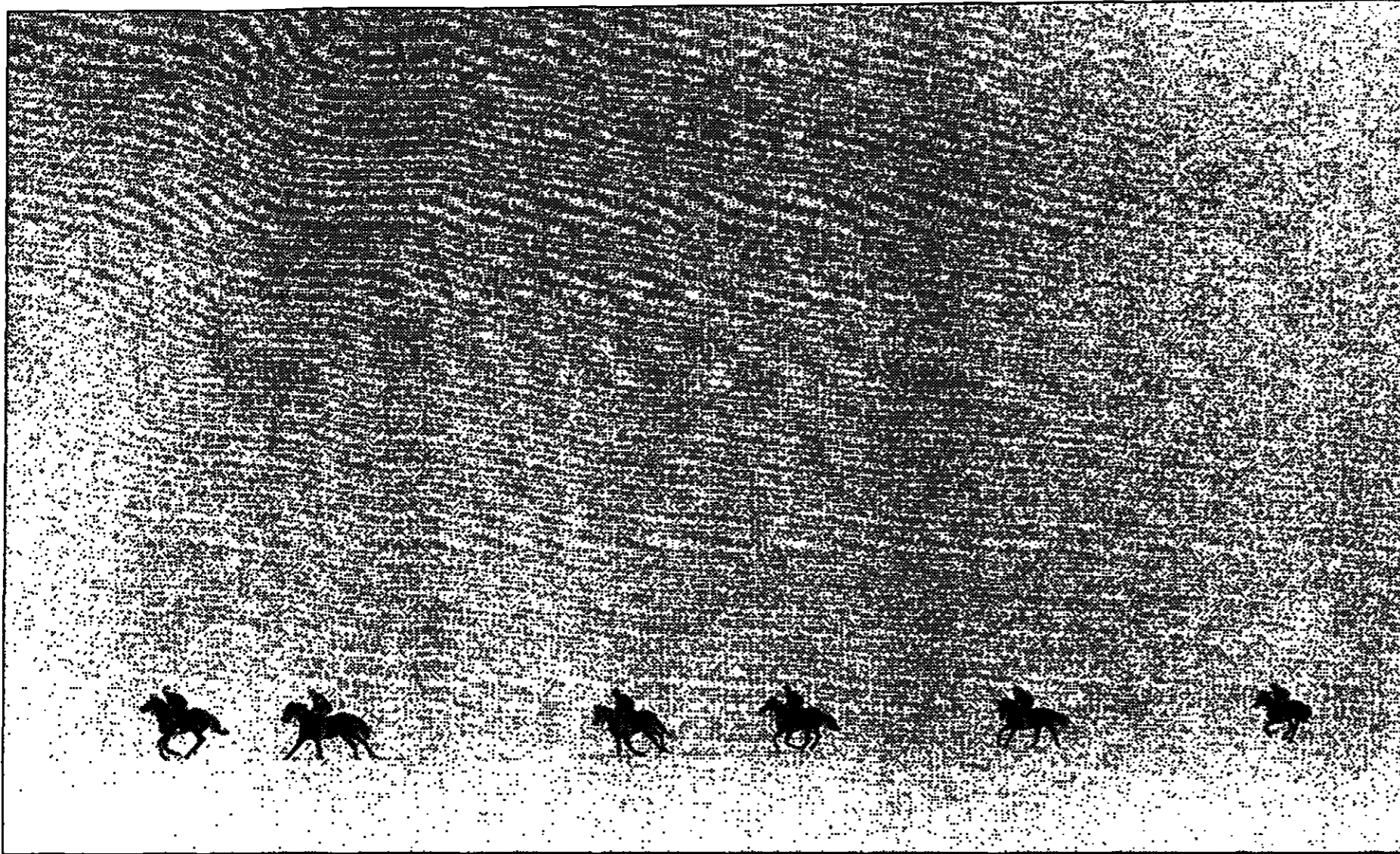
Table showing race results, including horse names, jockeys, and winning margins.

Advertisement for RACELINE featuring a phone number and a graphic of a horse.





# SportsGuardian



Snow mobile... horses from the trainer Mark Johnson's stable gallop over the frozen landscape of Middleham Moor in North Yorkshire

PHOTOGRAPH MICHAEL STEELE

## Take a letter to Virginia Bottomley



Vincent Hanna

DEAR Virginia, I hope you are well. It was such good news about Peter's new seat. For long summer weekends... I know you thought the job of Heritage Secretary would be fun: handing over Lottery money to charity, lots of jolly evenings at the opera. How could you possibly guess that you'd be mugged in a state retirement home by a bunch of geriatric sports fans.

wants the eight events (why such a meagre list is called the Crown Jewels beats me) available on TV for free. The sporting bodies want lots of money. Oh yes, and everyone wants to take a dig at Rupert Murdoch. A word of advice: talk to Michael Lee. He is your opposite number in the Australian government. Yes, I know he's in the Labour Party, but trust me, he can help you. He has to live cheek-by-jowl with Murdoch, and Packer.

He deals with terrestrial and satellite channels. And he has a Broadcasting Act that works. Since 1982 Michael has had the power to list events which in his opinion should be available free to the public. He's no wimp, he has listed 41 of them including all matches played by the Australian netball team and every round of the British Open.

But the real stinger is that he has discretion to remove or exempt any event from the Act provided he is satisfied that (a) there has been fair and open commercial competition for broadcasting rights; and (b) none of the terrestrial channels has acquired them within a reasonable time.

AND there's another thing. In making his decisions he can take into account what has happened to the edited highlights, or the radio coverage. This is the real challenge for you. Whatever you may do about the Crown Jewels, can you please ensure that broadcasting rights to important sporting events are unbundled, so that you prevent monopolies. Those who pay for live coverage should have to sell on the edited highlights, as with cricket's World Cup. We do not want a repetition of the Ryder Cup black-out.

Mind you, Michael Lee has a unified authority (the ABA) to help him. It has drawn up a tough set of guidelines that everyone obeys. Hard bargains are struck under supervision by the ABA, and the public gets value.

I think you need something similar, such as a new Advisory Committee. It could act as referee to ensure that the provision of televised sport to the public does not rip off sport itself. Denis Howell, John Peyton, David Sheppard and others have drafted amendments on this that I know you have promised to look at.

So take a deep breath, check out the Australian experience, forget the vested interests, and draft something original. Sport would be ever in your debt. So would the Prime Minister.

Best wishes, Vincent

## Euro hope for 10 English clubs

Martin Thorpe in Geneva on Uefa's revolutionary plans which could see a bumper crop of clubs competing abroad next season

UEFA yesterday announced revolutionary proposals which could see 10 English clubs playing in Europe next season and 15 in 1997-98. Under the plan, two English clubs would automatically compete in the European Cup and two in the Cup Winners' Cup.

The far-reaching changes are designed to give Europe's top clubs more money-making ties in order to head off any thoughts of those clubs breaking away to set up their own lucrative competitions. Uefa revealed the changes to clubs from Europe's top 13 countries at a summit here yesterday. The ideas were broadly welcomed by the 33 clubs present — including Manchester United, Arsenal and Liverpool — and they will now be fine-tuned by Uefa's competitions committee ready for an announcement of the exact plans and qualification criteria in March.

Uefa's main plan on the European Cup proposes that the current 24 national league champions in this most lucrative of competitions be joined by eight other clubs. These would comprise one each from the top eight countries in the European rankings, including England but not Scotland, who are not in the top eight.

The eight clubs would be chosen on merit, based on their current league positions and their league records over the previous 10 or the previous five years, a factor yet to be decided. If Newcastle win the title this season, for instance, the extra place would be likely to go to Manchester United on their record over the past five years, but possibly to Liverpool if judged over the past 10.

England expects for 1996/97 Champions Cup Premier League winners plus team with best league record over either five or 10 years. Manchester United or Liverpool. Cup Winners' Cup FA Cup winners plus team with best record over either five or 10 years. Arsenal or Liverpool.

than three-quarters of the Premiership. The Premier League's chief executive Rick Parry did not think the extra games would entail the domestic programme being adjusted. "In terms of dates, we can certainly cope with the proposals that are currently being talked about," he said.



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### Injury blow for England's Smith

ROBIN SMITH'S World Cup may be over before it has started. The Hampshire and England batsman pulled a groin muscle while taking a brilliant catch towards the end of England's 62-run victory over Lahore City XI yesterday, and such injuries can take weeks to heal.



Smith... devastated

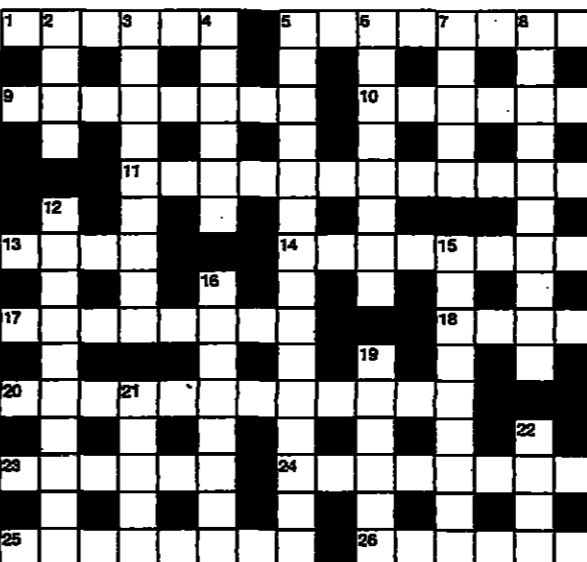
England begin against New Zealand next Wednesday. "We should know more in a day or two," said England's manager Ray Illingworth. "But if the muscle has really gone then it's a three-week job and Robin is out of the competition."

The world would be a better place if boys were to study the information in magazines in the way girls do. Where are the equivalent guides for young studs with raging hormones? Suzanne Moore

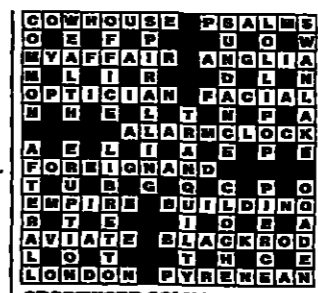
G2 page 7

### Guardian Crossword No 20,570

Set by Janus



- Across: 1 Steals small-beer (5), 3 Water-carrier's arm leading the French astray (5,3), 9 Sugar made with rare ingredients (5), 10 Spectra — one appearing in violent anger (5), 11 A novice painter "Disorderly Male Pictor" (5,4), 13 Part of father's extravagant language (4), 14 Rude when swimming off the late of Wright? (5), 17 Child needing diet with fish (5), 18 Insect flying over seaweed (4), 20 Nasty wives are disposed to speak out when last of money goes (3,4,5), 23 Specify right coin (5)



Crossword SOLUTION 20, 555

- 15 Initial hang-up for most modern painting (4,5), 16 Number of fish picked up by large cat (5,3), 19 Cheque-holder or carrier (5), 21 Something of a strain for eight players? (5), 22 Unhappy sportsman (4)

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Inside

